

REMARKS

I. Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application.

The April 4, 2006 Office Action (hereinafter "Office Action") rejected claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Stronach WO 00/67215 (hereinafter "Stronach").

II. Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 24, and 35 to more particularly define applicant's invention. The rejection of claims 1-46 is respectfully traversed.

III. Applicant's Reply to the Rejection of the Claims

Independent claims 1 and 24 are directed toward a method and system, respectively, for placing interactive wagers on races using an interactive wagering application that is implemented using user equipment. The user is provided with an opportunity to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one runner to be used in a wager for a race. As amended, claims 1 and 24 recite that the automatic runner selection is performed using a random-number generation application. This feature was present in original dependent claims 11 and 35. Accordingly, for at least this

reason, applicant submits that the amended claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

Stronach refers to a multimedia system for wagering on race events. A plurality of user terminals are provided for allowing users to input wagers. The Examiner points to two portions of Stronach (the abstract and page 9) alleging that these portions show a "quick pick feature." (Office Action, page 2). The Examiner contends, therefore, that "[a] detailed reading of Stronach by an artisan of ordinary skill would teach all of the claimed invention." Office Action, page 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The abstract of Stronach refers to receiving handicapping data and odds data and selecting one or more racing candidates using the received data. (See Stronach, Abstract). This feature is explained in more detail on pages 10 and 14 of Stronach. These pages describe Stronach's user terminals as including a button "for initiating reselection of the racing candidates." (See Stronach, page 10). The reselection of racing candidates is performed using a racing candidate selection algorithm. Stronach's user terminals include multiple racing candidate selection algorithms, and each time the reselection button is pressed, a different algorithm is used. Since all such algorithms select racing candidates by applying "different weights to the various handicapping data," none of Stronach's racing candidate selection algorithms are based on a

random-number generator. (Stronach, pages 10 and 14).

Accordingly, Stronach's racing candidate reselection feature fails to show or suggest the ability to direct an interactive wagering application to automatically select, using a random-number generation application, runners for a wager to be run, as recited by applicant's independent claims 1 and 24.

The Examiner also points to page 9 of Stronach to show a "quick pick" feature. This page describes that Stronach's user terminals can be configured to allow a user to input wagers of a single predetermined type. Applicant submits, however, that this does not imply a quick pick feature as the Examiner contends. (See Stronach, page 9, lines 5-32). Rather, the user terminals are labeled with a simple wager description, such as "Pick A Winner," "Pick Two Any Order," and "Pick Two Exact Order," so that novice users, who are unfamiliar with betting terminology, may understand the bet type accepted by the terminal. Id. Not only does this portion of Stronach not describe a "quick pick" type feature, it also does not show or suggest the use of a random-number generation application, as recited by applicant's independent claims 1 and 24.

In view of the foregoing, neither portion of Stronach that the Examiner points to shows the ability to direct an interactive wagering application to automatically select, using a random-number generation application, which runner or runners are to be used in a wager for a race to be run. Therefore,

applicants respectfully submit that Stronach fails to anticipate applicant's independent claims 1 and 24.

Moreover, dependent claims 11 and 35 further recite that the random-number generation application is implemented "at computer equipment separate from the user equipment." For example, the random-number generation application may be implemented at separate computer equipment located at the transaction processing and subscription management system or at a television distribution facility. This may allow, for example, more than one user equipment to share a single random-number generation application. (See Specification, ¶ 0109).

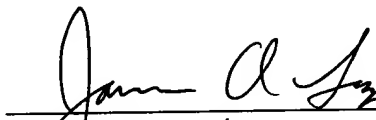
In contrast, Stronach's wagering processor, which is part of the user terminal, is configured to reselect the racing candidates. (See Stronach, page 10, lines 21-29 and FIG. 4). Therefore, Stronach does not show or suggest selecting runners using a random-number generation application that is implemented at computer equipment separate from the user equipment, as recited by applicant's dependent claims 11 and 35.

Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 24 are not anticipated by Stronach. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-23 and 25-46, which contain all the limitations of their respective base claims, are not anticipated by Stronach for at least the same reasons.

IV. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-46 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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